

THREE COUNT[©]

Volume 1, Number 29

April 7, 1992

Savage Wins WWF Title; Hogan Saved by Warrior

By ALEX MARVEZ
Three Count Editor

Randy Savage pinned Ric Flair to win the World Wrestling Federation title April 5 in the main event of Wrestlemania VIII, a WWF pay-per-view show held at the Indianapolis Hoosier Dome.

In the shows other main event, Hulk Hogan defeated Sid Justice via disqualification in what was being billed as possibly the Hulkster's final match. More notable than the match's finish was the return of The Ultimate Warrior, who saved Hogan from a post-match attack by Justice and Papa Shongo.

Results and analysis of the show:

1) Shawn Michaels defeated "El Matador" Tito Santana in a disappointing 13-minute match. Because the entrance from the dressing room to the arena was so long, Michaels's new theme was played in its entirety. I should have known bad things were set to happen at that point. This match was too slow paced considering who was involved. The finish came when Santana delivered his chop to the back of the head on Michaels, who rolled from the ring.

When Michaels jumped to the ring apron, Santana attempted to bodyslam him back in the ring. Michaels held onto the ropes, forcing Santana to collapse and be pinned. The finish looked miserable. Grade: C.

At this point, the Legion of Doom returned to the WWF in a live interview-- with Precious Paul Ellering back as their manager. I

(Continued on Page 2)



The Ultimate Warrior, shown here as Intercontinental champion in 1989, returned to the WWF April 5.

WWF Hit With More Sex Charges

By ALEX MARVEZ
Three Count Editor

The World Wrestling Federation took a vicious beating from the mainstream media during the past week, with new allegations of sexual misconduct by WWF front-office personnel surfacing.

The most damaging news came on Geraldo Rivera's syndicated *Now It Can Be Told* tabloid
(Continued on Page 11)

Briefly...

• **Kid Gets Tryout:** The Lightning Kid will soon be given a tryout in World Championship Wrestling, said WCW executive vice president Kip Frey. Kid is the former Global Wrestling Federation light-heavyweight champion.

• **Piper Pipes:** Roddy Piper lashed out at those who alleged sexual abuse in the World Wrestling Federation March 31 on Alex Bennett's radio show in San Francisco. Piper called former WBF announcer Murray Hodgson a homosexual, and said Barry Orton had served "five years in prison for murdering his girlfriend." Orton served only two years in prison for vehicular manslaughter, and the female passenger who died was not his girlfriend. Hodgson denied Piper's allegation to the *Wrestling Observer Newsletter*, and may file a lawsuit against Piper for slander.

Inside...

Florida news -- Pg 3
New WCW show -- Pg 4
Hanlin column -- Pg 5
Rey's Lucha -- Pg 6
Letters, RR -- Pg 8-9
Victory int. -- Pg 10
WBF Debuts-- Pg 11

Flair Drops WWF Title to Savage

(Continued from Page 1)

was never one for Ellering's style, but his interview with Gene Okerlund was very good. I think he will add immensely to the L.O.D.'s presence. This whole interview, though, was a bit long-winded.

2) The Undertaker pinned Jake Roberts after administering a tombstone piledriver outside the ring and rolling Roberts back in the ring for the cover. This match was preceded by a video recap of the feud and Roberts interview, which wasn't necessary considering the thing had already been replayed on the Wrestlemania preview center. The time spent for that could have been used for the British Bulldog-Berserker match that never took place because of time restrictions. Wait, come to think of it, I'd rather see a good angle 20 times than a bad wrestling match once. This match was one big Taker chokehold until Jake made a comeback and hit a DDT. Taker did his "rising" gimmick, but was hit with another DDT. Roberts then rolled out of the ring to attack Paul Bearer. Taker rose and delivered the tombstone, protecting Roberts well from actually hitting his head on the cement. Grade: C-.

3) Bret Hart captured the WWF Intercontinental title by pinning Roddy Piper in a super match. They teased the turn of both men throughout the pre-match interview and the bout itself, with Hart feigning a shoulder injury to hook Piper in a small package, and

Piper pointing to Hart's shoes and then sucker punching him when he checked them. Hart unintentionally bled after a Piper bulldog headlock. Late in the match, there was a referee bump. Piper ran outside the ring, grabbed the timekeeper's bell and stood over a prone Hart. Piper teased hitting Hart with the belt for a minute before throwing it outside the ring. They went to the finish immediately after, with Piper hooking a sleeper onto Hart. Hart kicked off the second turnbuckle, flipped over and got the pinfall. After the bout, Piper and Hart hugged, shook hands, etc. and returned to the dressing room together. This match signals the beginning of another Piper hiatus from the ring. Grade: A-.

Next came an interview at the "home" of Lex Luger. The screen billed him as being in Atlanta, but in reality, he was sitting in an Indianapolis hotel room, having done a pre-taped interview presented as being live. Luger is absolutely massive, and was hilarious in his wise-ass cracks toward WWF announcer Gorilla Monsoon. Luger described himself as "the most genetically gifted, anatomically perfect human being on the face of the earth." Uh-huh. Contrary to wrestling's hottest rumor, World Championship Wrestling did not threaten the WWF with a lawsuit to keep Luger from appearing live on the show. But WCW executive vice president Kip Frey said WCW and the WWF "still may have trouble if they violate our agreement." Luger is not permitted to wrestle for the WWF until March 1993 as compensation for gaining release from his WCW contract.

4) Jim Duggan-Sergeant Slaughter-Virgil-Big Boss Man defeated The Nasty Boys-Repo Man-Mountie when Virgil pinned Jerry Nobbs. Ray Combs of Family Feud was the guest ring announcer, and was absolutely hilarious. He introduced the results of a "survey" taken of fans prior to the show, and announced Mountie as a law officer that "does the work of three men -- Curly, Larry and Moe." WWF stars will appear the week of May 11 on the prime-time version of Family Feud. Wouldn't it be funny if Murray Hodgson, Barry Orton, Bruno

(Continued on Page 10)

THREE COUNT®

Alex Marvez..... Editor/Publisher
Carol Hernandez..... Production
Paul Hanlin Jr..... Columnist
Carlos Rey..... Lucha Libre
John Muse..... Japan

Three Count is a weekly professional wrestling newsletter published every Tuesday. Price for subscription is \$6 for one month, \$18 for three months, \$33 for six months and \$66 for one year. Please address all subscription checks to Three Count at P.O. Box 12795, Gainesville, Fla., 32604-0795.

GWF Runs Birthday Surprise in Gainesville

As I sat pondering Protestantism waiting for my Patterns of American Religion class at the University of Florida April 3, my girlfriend, Carol, called me out of class to give me one of the best birthday presents I had ever received -- the news that a live wrestling card was going to begin on campus in less than 10 minutes.

Since my priorities are in order, I quickly grabbed my backpack and ran with her to the lawn of the Reitz Union. Sure enough, a ring was set-up that was less than one

Alex Marvez

foot off the ground, with no mats to cover the cement around it. Ah, the joys of independent promotions.

The five-match show was sponsored by the university's student government for the 25th anniversary of the Union. The promotion itself was the Global Wrestling Federation -- not Joe Pedicino's, but an off-shoot. This GWF broke with Pedicino last fall, but is running names under the banner and using much of the same talent still associated with Pedicino.

Here is a report of the show, held before a transient crowd of 300 people on a partly cloudy 70-degree day (love that Florida weather):

1) "Cowboy" Ted Allen defeated The Angel with a dropkick. And it wasn't one of those punishing Doug Furnas dropkicks either. Just a lame leap off the ground that ended the match in three minutes. Grade: F.

2) Bambi defeated Peggy Lee Leather in the same match these two always have. Solid work, although Leather's clotheslines need some work. Crowd popped huge when Leather began potatoing Bambi in the upper chest area. Grade: C.

3) Jack Victory-Stormy (not sure of the last name) defeated The Pretty Young Things (Fred Avery and someone whose first name was James -- another WCW jobber). This was the best match on the card, and extremely entertaining. Because of the ring (and probably the pay-offs as well), there were very few bumps taken the entire show. However, this one was all psychology, with the crowd popping for everything. Victory pinned James for the win. Rip Morgan no-showed as Victory's partner. Grade: B- (all for psychology; D- for actual ring work).

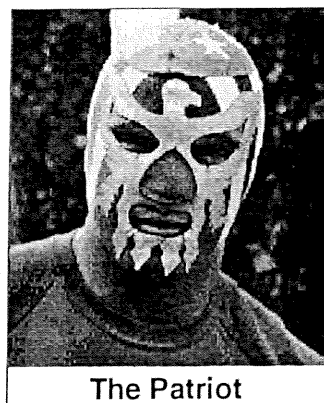
4) The Patriot defeated The Nightstalker (Bryan Clark) with the Patriot missile (shoulder-block off the

top rope) in a gruesome 12 minutes. Patriot (Del Wilkes) doesn't appear to be a good role model for steroid-free entertainment in the WWF (which is where he will start up in a few weeks). Clark showed some improvement (apparently, he has been training at Jody Hamilton's wrestling school), but is still awful. His main problem is being too tentative. Grade: F.

5) The Patriot won a 10-person battle royal by eliminating Victory. Victory and Patriot teamed together to toss out PYT James, and Victory then turned on Patriot, even executing a pile driver. Grade: D.

Notes: Terry Gordy was slated to headline against The Patriot, but cancelled ahead of time because of his intention to begin with WCW in May...Bambi was really hot about a show she worked the night before in her hometown of Duluth, Ga. Bambi, who nearly died of anorexia as a

was slated to against Judy promoter Bob The show had publicity in the with a four-on Bambi. For son, Canella Bambi to put over (which sense). Bambi and the two uncooperative



The Patriot

their 20-minute match...The Patriot has been wrestling for the WWF over the past few weeks, but has just been doing jobs in matches off television. I expect that when WWF owner Vince McMahon gets the idea for a good gimmick, Wilkes will start working on television. The GWF staff was extremely cooperative, and the students really appeared to like the show. A return show may be coming this summer or fall.

Other Florida notes: The next Suncoast Pro Wrestling taping takes place April 18 at the Manatee County Civic Center in Palmetto, and features my television announcing debut for the main event -- Penelope Paradise vs. Debbie Malenko in a two-of-three falls match. Other scheduled bouts on the 14-match show include Dean Malenko vs. The Giant Outlaw for Suncoast's Southern title, Jumbo Baretta vs. Rico Federico for the Florida title, Vern Henderson-Gator Gilmore defending the Suncoast tag-team straps against Sonny T-Rock Thames and The Masked Superstar (Bob Cook) 5vs. Ion Weston. Call 813-758-3684 for information.

teenager, work Martin for Canella. garnered local paper page story some reawanted Martin makes no refused, were very during

Saturday Night's All Right for WCW

By ALEX MARVEZ
Three Count Editor

I twenty years ago, pro wrestling on WTBS wasn't seen by an audience of millions nationwide. Five-camera match shoots, slickly produced vignettes and talk-show wrestling formats weren't even a twinkle in a promoter's eye.

But as pro wrestling celebrated its 20th birthday on TBS April 5, those above-mentioned things were all present as World Championship Wrestling introduced its new *WCW Saturday Night* television format.

The new show, the brain-child of WCW executive vice president Kip Frey, was done in a fashion similar to the older version of the World Wrestling Federation's *Prime Time Wrestling*. Jim Ross and guest commentator Jesse "The Body" Ventura sat on chairs next to a television monitor, surrounded by a studio ring with three sides of ropes and a fourth empty for the cameras to shoot.

Each *WCW Saturday Night* show will feature a main event under two-of-three fall rules. The April 5 main event was Steve Austin defeating Tom Zenk in two-of-three falls to retain the WCW television title. The Freebirds will face Greg Valentine-Terry Taylor for the U.S. tag-team titles April 12, and a 27-minute Larry Zbyszko vs. Nikita Koloff match is scheduled for later in the month. Beginning in May, the WCW title will only be defended on television in a two-of-three fall match.

"I felt the old show, as it was and as it has been through its history, had a self-imposed limit as far as the broadness of its audience went," Frey said. "We had to update to make it a little catchier, with more entertainment. We wanted to get away from the look of Center Stage."

The inaugural *WCW Saturday Night* show was taped before a live audience at Center Stage, the 700-seat auditorium in Atlanta's CNN Center that has housed WCW regularly for television tapings since 1989. The new shows will feature Ross and a guest host each week (the first one being Atlanta Falcons guard Bill Fralic) introducing matches and segments from a studio. The weekly in-depth interview with a top WCW star will still take place before a live Center Stage audience.

Critics of the show have complained the show looks too similar to a WWF production, and does not offer as much of the hard-core wrestling it used to. Some have also said WCW will find it extremely difficult to fill Center Stage regularly for the new format, because not enough live matches take place. Frey said WCW will tape three two-of-three fall matches at Center Stage for each television taping, offer more "dark" (off-camera) matches and continue with autograph sessions for fans.

The April 5 debut show featured three matches (Brian Pillman defeating Brad Armstrong in a WCW light-heavyweight title defense, The Freebirds defeating Cactus Jack-Diamond Dallas Page when Michael Hayes DDT'd Page and the Austin-Zenk bout). The new format allowed for more discussion and hype of WCW feuds and storylines. Highlights of Pillman's match with Jushin Lyger from SuperBrawl II were shown before his bout with Armstrong, and Ventura and Ross put the light-heavyweight division over in a big way.

The most notable occurrence was the lengthy interview conducted with Ron Simmons by Ross and Ventura. But this was a very different conversation than from what goes on nowadays in wrestling. Simmons talked about how children look up to wrestlers and other athletes as role models, but they have other role models in their own community who serve as even better examples. He even brought up Magic Johnson's name during the interview. Simmons also gave calm "wrestling" answers to questions about Sting and Rick Rude. The interview was preceded by a Simmons vignette, comprised of highlights of the vignettes hyping Simmons prior to his match Oct. 27 against Lex Luger at Halloween Havoc. WCW plans more vignettes with wrestlers away from the ring for future episodes.

WCW Saturday Night did not go as smoothly as Frey would have liked, however. There were plenty of technical glitches, like Tony Schiavone's audio going out before the Simmons vignette ended and having to do four takes on the Simmons interview because of technical difficulties.

"The first one was a test version," Frey said. "I wasn't happy with it technically. It's going to take several weeks to fix, but I like the concept."



Jesse Ventura

Ho-hum WCW Show a WWF Rip-off

A quick turn to my left... no scandal here. A quick turn to my right... no surprise there.

It's been a while, but we're actually going to talk about professional wrestling this week. You remember wrestling, with high spots, bumps, interviews and *matches*. Here goes.

I saw *WCW Saturday Night*, the beginning of the so-called "new era" of the former NWA, hosted by **Jim Ross** and **Jesse Ventura**. Any similarities to America's *Favorite Cable Network's*

Paul Hanlin Jr.

Prime Time Wrestling is purely intentional.

Ho-hum. . .

I thought **Vince McMahon** had jumped to TBS when I saw the opening, complete with **Eric Bischoff** almost missing his cue. It looked like any other episode of WCW wrestling from Center Stage in Atlanta except we kept going to "the arena," without mentioning where "the arena" was. For all any of us up here knew, it could have been from the old Philadelphia Arena, demolished 15 years ago.

There were good matches (**Brian Pillman** vs. **Brad Armstrong**, **Tom Zenk** vs. **Steve Austin**), but even with the 90-minute format, it dragged a lot. What's this bit with **Diamond Dallas Page** not being able to talk on camera? K. Allen Whatshisname has the right idea, but just don't put him in the ring. Did you see **Madusa's** (more on her later) facial expressions as DDP was rambling? Priceless.

Dusty Rhodes obviously believes that if you can't beat Vince, and God knows they've tried and tried, then join him. From the high and wide shots of "the arena" and the banter between Jim, Jesse, **Ron Simmons** and the crowd, Dusty is going all-out to imitate his rival's main cable TV show. Big Dust can point to the scenery without an ounce of dissent.

Dave Meltzer suggests in the March 30 *Wrestling Observer Newsletter* that a feud is in the works between Madusa and **Missy Hyatt**. Here's a hint for *Monsieurs Runnels* and Frey should they wish to go that route. . .

TURN MADUSA BABYFACE!

There is no way in G-G-G-Good G-G-G-God's green, rapidly ozone-depleting earth that fans *won't* cheer her against Hyatt. Despite Hyatt's Pulitzer Prize-caliber reporting in finding out (gasp!) **Paul E. Dangerously** was the bogus ninja at SuperBrawl II, her on-camera persona (off-camera, too?) precludes any positive fan reaction. Just keep that in mind, guys.

Late word on you-know-what, courtesy of *Prime Time Wrestling*. Another spring, another *Wrestlemania*, another WWF title change. I can't believe Vince is that stupid. Well, yes I can. He's five for the last five *Wrestlemanias* in switching his top singles belt. A change that didn't have to happen yet. A result which defies all logic and rational reasoning. I guess **Ric Flair** was going to lose all along at *Wrestlemania* no matter who the challenger was. Perhaps looking out for one's self isn't limited to just the Hoaxster, is it, Mr. Madness? The day Flair tells the chief whiff head to kiss it good-bye won't be soon enough. Why do I have this dreadful feeling that Flair vs. **Jim Neidhart** is right around the corner? More next week about this colossal mistake of a finish and the art of booking fame in general.

Thumbs down to WCW for finally popping the "let's have the face hit the *rhymes-with-rich*" angle. Woman-sapping is despicable, be it in the Whiff or the World. All WCW has to do is make a phone call to All Japan Women's Pro Wrestling and have any of their top workers (**Akira Hokkuto**, **Debbie Malenko**, **Kyoko Inoue**, etc.) come in to help the faces out and, presto, they have a ready-made feud with Madusa. Or might those matches wind up being better than most of the men's bouts?

I'm sorry, but Madusa is being wasted big-time, folks. I'm not saying this just because she sat on my lap at that **Joel Goodhart** luncheon four years ago. She's good enough to be the head of a heel group all by herself. She was supposed to be "The Boss" of the Cartel when Global wanted its own version of the Horsemen, but WCW hired her before they had the chance. She could break away from the D.A. and still retain her heel heat, then bring in **Terry Gordy** and **Steve Williams** as part of *her* stable and have a three-way feud. Imagine the possibilities.

Bravo to **Dr. Mike Lano** and his guest column last week. Mr. Canvas Cavity gets a lot of heat from the wrestling underground, but anyone who has the guts to say that like a different style of wrestling is okay with me.

One last thing, since I can't let this go without comment, and since he's going to be involved with wrestling, albeit briefly. To **Masaharu Funaki**, who will fight **Roberto Duran**, proud defender of convicted rapist and all-around slug **Mike Tyson**. A man not afraid to play the race card just like that simpleton Jose Suliman, World Boxing Council president who compared Tyson's conviction to "a dinner of blacks by white cannibals." Funaki, please do all clear-thinking people the world over a favor by kicking Mr. No-Mas and his over-the-hill, 249-pound, has-been butt on April 19 in Tokyo.

Next week, to my editor's chagrin, find out why *Wrestle War II* on May 17 in his backyard will bomb and struggle to get by an 0.5 buy rate on PPV.



Montini's Return Hurts Vampire

Here are the results of the April 5 EMLL show on Galavision. Beginning next week, I will offer a translation of the wrestler's names in English and some of the history behind their titles.

1) The quick tecnico team of **Black Magic** (Norman Smiley)-**Blue Demon Jr.**-**Hijo del Solitario** defeating the rudo team of **Ponzonia-Espectro Jr.-Universo 2000** in two of three falls. The first fall went to the technicos, as

Carlos Rey



Demon made Espectro submit and Universo (the team captain) refused to enter the ring, thus submitting the fall. The second fall belonged to the rudos from the start with brawling tactics, as Ponzonia forced Solitario's submission, Magic submitted to Universo (with help from Ponzonia) and Demon could not continue because of punishment inflicted by Espectro. The third fall also appeared to be going the rudos way. Universo severely ripped Solitario's mask, and when Universo whipped him into the ropes, Solitario was forced to release his grip on the mask and it flew off. In Mexico, taking an opponent's mask off is an automatic disqualification, but that wasn't the case here. The bout continued, and Solitario wound up pinning Universo with a power bomb.

An interview with El Dandy in an empty arena followed. Dandy talked about his recent return from Japan and the fact he pinned **The Ultimate Dragon** (**Yoshihiro Asai**) to give the Dragon his first loss in Japan. The finish of that match was a big deal in Japan legitimately. Dandy made special challenges to **El Satanico** for a hair vs. hair match and also to **Blue Panther**.

2) Technicos **Dandy-Dragon-Solomon Grundy** defeated **Los Brazos** (rudos) in two of three falls. This match could have been a lot better had someone other than Grundy been used. **El Gato Montini**, who was ejected from refereeing during the main event of last week's show, was back as the head official again this week, much to the tecnico's dismay. The Brazos (who stuck up for Montini) completely controlled the first fall, with **Brazo de Oro** controlling Dandy and **El Brazo** tying up Dragon. **El Brazo de Plata** destroyed Grundy with a splash, and Dandy was left unable to answer the count.

The second fall went to the technicos as Dragon pinned Brazo with a cradle and Plata and Grundy knocked each other from the ring. The third fall saw Dragon do his backward jump from the second rope outside the ring onto Porky, Grundy hit a splash off the second rope onto Plata for the pin and Dandy pinned Plata.

3) **Bestia Salvaje** earned a title shot at Atlantis's EMLL middle-weight title after the rudo team of **Salvaje-Panther-Satanico** defeated Atlantis-**Love Machine** (**Art Barr**)-**Octagon** in two straight falls. The first fall went to the rudos, as Salvaje pinned Atlantis, Satanico made Octagon submit with a back-breaker and Machine unable to answer the count. The next fall was also very exciting, as Satanico pinned Octagon, Atlantis pinned Satanico and Salvaje pinned Atlantis again. Because Salvaje defeated Atlantis twice, he had the right to challenge Atlantis for a title shot, which he did. The match will take place next week, and will be Atlantis's 32nd title defense. Panther and Machine will also have their mask vs. mask match next week. I predict Salvaje and Panther will win their respective matches, but let's wait and see.

Before the main event, an interview was shone with Montini offering an explanation of what happened during last week's main event (**Perro Aguayo vs. Sangre Chicana**), when the wrestling commission removed him from the match for being partial. Montini claimed he was not showing favoritism. No word on what the commission will do about this next.

4) In another Montini special, the rudo team of **Chicana-Cein Caras-La Fiera** defeated **Aguayo-Konan-Canadian Vampire** in two falls. The rudos dominated right away with the help of Montini, with Fiera throwing Aguayo three rows deep into the ringside seats. Konan, who was juicing heavily, was pinned by Fiera's piledriver, and Vampire and Aguayo were unable to answer the count. The technicos made a comeback in the second fall. But in the heat of battle, when Vampire attempted to punch Chicana, he instead hit Montini. The referee called for a disqualification, which drove the technicos and fans into a frenzy. The technicos began roughing up Montini, finally dumping him over the top rope onto the floor. A good ending to a good show.

*Carlos Rey has watched lucha libre for more than 10 years, and cannot get enough of the style. He not only writes a weekly column for **Three Count**, but, in addition, has tapes of Galavision shows available. Write to him at 996 West 45th Place, Hialeah FL 33012 for more information. He is hoping to begin receiving tapes of the UWA soon. Look for more details and a review here.*

Spotlight on: Jack Victory

Forget about Jack Victory being an appropriate wrestling name for Ken Rinehurst. Try Jack-of-all Trades.

Victory, 29, is known as one of wrestling's most versatile "utility" performers, which has earned him a plethora of different wrestling gimmicks. Victory has portrayed an Australian (Jocko Victory in the Royal Family tag-team with Rip Morgan), a Russian (Russian Assassin II in WCW) and himself over the past through years, to name a few.

Victory, though, now appears on the verge of reaching the big time. He is scheduled to begin wrestling in the WWF soon with Morgan as The Maulers. The following interview was conducted April 3 following Victory's match on a Global Wrestling Federation show in Gainesville, Fla.

AM: When are you and Rip going to the WWF?

JV: As of right now, it's in the works. Probably after Wrestlemania we'll start up. (April 12) we're going to Mexico to work for Paco (Alonso, head promoter for the EMLL group). We're going to interchange with Monterey and Mexico City (promotions). They both want us real bad, so they made a deal between each other.

AM: How familiar are you with the lucha style?

JV: This is our first time down there. We've wrestled a lot of Mexicans, like the Guerreros, so kind of know the style. I know it's a much faster pace than in America.

AM: Going to the WWF is a really good break for you, especially considering the "handyman" role you've been playing the past few years.

JV: You've just got to wait for your break. It's just like anything. A lot of baseball players stay in the AAA league for a long time. I think a lot of it has to do with our natural size.

AM: It must have gotten frustrating screwing around with all sorts of different leagues for years.

JV: I still made a pretty good living. I have no regrets. If I had to do it over again, I would do it the same way.

AM: Who did you enjoy working with the most?

JV: I had a great time with the Shepherders. We had a lot of cage matches with the Fantastics and Terry Taylor, barbed wire matches, which I had never been in...it was tough. It was a tough living back then, but it was fun. Me and Rip, we've been wrestling together for three years, so we know each other like the back of our hands. He's a great guy, my best friend. The best opponent we ever worked with were The Road Warriors. We really enjoyed the tough competition. We wrestled them for two months in WCW as **The Royal Family**.

AM: You guys have finally started to really gel. How long did it take before that started happening?

JV: It took a good year of working non-stop six days a week. Our styles are totally different. He's the big, rugged guy and I'm just the complete opposite. We have a good time wrestling together.

AM: It's been interesting to watch your career because of all the different phases. How difficult has that been? I think you had the chance to do all that because you can work so many different ways.

JV: I think of it as an advantage, really, working all types of styles against all types of people in a bunch of territories. See, when I broke in, I started in Mid South sports

with **Bill Watts**. The majority of those guys are in the WWF now, so I'll gel right into that system real easy, I'm sure. Rip will, too.

AM: The style in the WWF is so different from Mid South. The UWF was so hard-working...I understand Bill wouldn't let you rest in the ring.

JV: I wish it was around still, to tell you the truth. It was a good territory, and I enjoyed it. I credit my wrestling skills right now to working in that territory.

AM: Working for all these different groups, did you ever get to the point where you thought you couldn't evolve any further as a wrestler? Or are you still evolving now?

JV: You always learn. Once you stop learning, you should get out of the sport. Hell, you can even steal stuff from the younger guys now. Moves that are incredible. I broke in seven years ago, and the moves then were incredible. But now, guys like (The Great) Muta, are doing unbelievable stuff. High-flying stuff. But, you know, I don't see longevity in those guys. Knee, elbow injuries...I've had three knee operations myself.

AM: What wrestler do you watch for inspiration?

JV: I like watching **Ric Flair**, **Randy Savage**, **The Road Warriors** in tag-team competition...The list goes on and on. There's a lot of great athletes in our sport, and I don't think they get that much credit. You only hear about the bad stuff in our sport, you really don't think about the

positives. It's just like baseball. The Braves had a set-back last year with their center fielder (**Otis Nixon**, who was suspended for failing a cocaine test). They get a little bit more bad publicity than us.

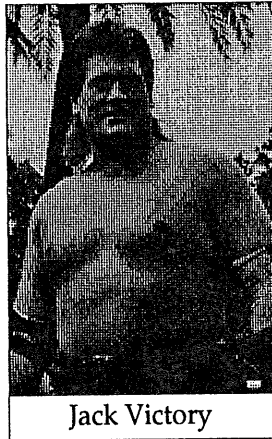
There's a lot of good guys who spend a lot of time in children's hospitals and things like that, and I think that's where this sport is coming to. The sport is still popular and I think it's going to go on for another 25 years. I hope 100 years.

AM: Do you see the style of wrestling currently in this country changing?

JV: I see a lot of small territories popping back up, like it was 10 years ago. There were 20 territories in the country. The WWF has a big load on its shoulder, and a lot of these small towns, like Gainesville, don't get hit. So I see a lot of smaller territories popping up that will go to the small towns and smaller arenas.

AM: How about the in-ring product? You see the chance in the WWF, with them now having guys like Flair.

JV: I think it's great. Longevity -- That's what we're in here for.



Jack Victory

Letters

Dear Alex:

After reading the transcript of the Jim Wilson/Ric Carter interview in *Three Count's* last two issues, I have to respond.

As you know, I have acted as the National Wrestling Alliance's general legal counsel for approximately the last four years, (yes, the NWA still exists). Anyway, I wrote off much of Wilson's statements as an attempt by someone who has been out of the business for almost 20 years to get back into the limelight, if the current media uproar can be correctly characterized as "limelight." However, towards the end of the transcript, Wilson alleges that the NWA "paid off" people in Washington, D.C. to keep a certain Consent Order "...covered up and out of public scrutiny."

The Consent Order that Mr. Wilson refers to was indeed entered in 1956 and was part of a settlement between the NWA and the Justice Department concerning antitrust litigation. As a judgment of record of a judicial proceeding, the Consent Order has been a public document since 1956. Additionally, compliance with the dictates of the Consent Order is mandated by the NWA by-laws and membership in the NWA is expressly conditioned upon compliance with the Consent Order. As such, Wilson's allegation of a "cover up" is completely without merit. To allege some type of conspiracy concerning a 36-year-old court decision which is available for anyone's review is more than a bit of a stretch.

Additionally, Wilson makes this offhand remark during a rambling response to a question concerning state and federal regulation of wrestling and the medical and physical concerns of wrestlers. The 1956 Consent Order has absolutely nothing to do with the establishment of state or federal regulatory bodies or the medical well being of the wrestlers. Wilson obviously has every right to express his opinions about the pro wrestling business in general. However, when he starts making specific accusations of criminal conduct, he should be prepared to substantiate those charges.

On a lighter note, I think you are doing a wonderful job with *Three Count*. Please tell Paul Hanlin that I sympathize with his position concerning the WWF. As a born and bred Philadelphian myself, I can only surmise that Paul grew up watching the old WWF broadcasts of Vince McMahon Sr., and cringes every time he sees the changes which Vince Jr. has brought to the business.

--Robert K. Trobich
Charlotte, NC

Dear Alex:

What is going on with the storyline with Johnny

B. Badd and Brian Pillman? It seems they are hell bent into turning Johnny into a heel again. Who is the highest paid manager in the business and what is required for the role? Any plans for Alexandra York? If you ask me, she would be better off on WCW's *Main Event* instead of the whining bimbo Missy Hyatt. Didn't the gimmick involving Paul E. Dangerously hitting Jason Hervey with a cellular phone backfire? Will there be a break-up between Dangerously and Madusa? Who will be the babyface if it happens? How much input do wrestlers have in their roles?

--John Williams
Miami, FL

P.S. How about a brief glossary of wrestling terminology?

AM: There is mass confusion concerning Badd's role (isn't it always the case in WCW?), but I expect him to stay as a babyface and feud with Pillman for the light-heavyweight title later this year. To preface your next questions, managers are not "real" managers of wrestlers in the sense that they do not handle their financial affairs or travel schedule. In the pre-WWF days, managers usually used to handle wrestlers whose interview skills were lacking. You would also see a manager bring in various chagrins to challenge an arch-rival (i.e. Sir Oliver Humperdink vs. Dusty Rhodes in Florida, Fred Blassie-Grand Wizard-Lou Albano vs. Bob Backlund in the WWWF). Today's highest paid manager will be Dangerously as soon as he signs his new contract. I don't have an amount, but I estimate Dangerously will make in the \$200,000 range.

I have no idea why York (Terri Boatwright) was fired from her role. I don't think Hyatt is effective in her role, but I doubt York would be any better because her interview skills are lacking. The gimmick (the phone) with which Dangerously potatoed Hervey was fine. The problem was former WCW executive vice president Jim Herd pulled the plug after the angle on Hyatt appearing in the ring. Thus, the Dangerously-Hyatt matches scheduled around the horn were cancelled. Much to Paul Hanlin Jr.'s dismay, don't look for a Madusa-Dangerously split. Madusa was originally paired with Dangerously in October as insurance. Dangerously, who was suspended from WCW in October for allegedly leaking information about an upcoming storyline, agreed not to file a lawsuit in return for WCW making him a manager again and giving him partial control of the Dangerous Alliance's storylines. Dangerously and WCW eventually settled their differences, but in case an agreement could not be reached, Madusa was paired with Dangerously from the on-set to insure a heel manager would

always be around.

Wrestlers can either comprise their own wrestling gimmick and persona, or they can have one given to them (Big Boss Man, Vinnie Vegas, etc.). As far as control of their matches, almost all wrestlers have no control of whether they win or not or who they feud with. That falls under the discretion of the booker (match-maker), who makes his decisions based on a number of different factors (a wrestler's drawing power, future storylines, friendship, etc.). Hulk Hogan and Sting can (and have) vetoed doing jobs. Other WCW wrestlers have gotten away with that in the past, but I've heard of no recent incidents. A glossary of terms (as suggested long ago by *Three Count* mathematician Mike Rosenthal) will appear next issue.

Sheet Spotlight

Here's a look at the top stories of some of the other wrestling newsletters, with subscription information:

- **Dave Meltzer's Wrestling Observer Newsletter** (April 6): A complete summary of the WWF's steroid symposium, with quotes from new WWF steroid overseer **Mauro DiPasquale**; News from every wrestling circuit world wide. Another amazing issue. *Weekly*; \$1.50 an issue. P.O. Box 1228, Campbell CA 95009-1228.

- **Wade Keller's Pro Wrestling Torch** (March 19): Complete report on **Eddie Gilbert** winning the GWF title from **The Dark Patriot** (Doug Gilbert) March 27 in Dallas; **Mark Madden** column on *Wrestlemania VIII*; Excellent interview with **Jesse Ventura** about the AWA and WWF. Also results and letters to the editor. *Weekly*; \$1.25 an issue (Free sample available). P.O. Box 201844, Minneapolis MN 55420.

- **Mike Sawyer's Legdrop** (April 2): A review of **Rich Mancuso's** WFAN radio show featuring **Kip Frey** and **John Arezzi's** Pro Wrestling Spotlight; *Wrestlemania* predictions and letters. *Weekly*; \$1.25 an issue. 831 Pasadena Ave., Niagra Falls, NY 14304..

- **Jason Shepard's Wrestling Weekly** (March 20): A head-to-head look at WCW and the WWF, breaking down such areas as wrestlers, tag-teams, television production, etc. Also, a review of the *Larry King Live* show featuring **Vince McMahon**, **Bruno Sammartino** and **Barry Orton**. *Weekly*; Price unknown (send for a sample). 1110 Vine St., Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965.

- **Steve Sims's Lucha Libre Weekly** (March 31): An excellent preview of the first quarter of the year with the lucha performers; Complete summaries of EMLL and UWA telecasts, with lucha news from Japan to boot. Also, a biography of Steve's trips to Mexico. A must for the lucha fan. *Weekly*; \$1 an issue (free samples are available). 1427 West Dickens Ave., Chicago, Ill 60614-3003.

Ring Recall

CWF Memories Bring Yearning for Territories

By BARRY ROSE

Special to Three Count

Please, please, wrestling territories come back! Why do I say that? Simple. Championship Wrestling from Florida was one of the hottest territories of the 1970s, and I was fortunate enough to have seen much of it. CWF offered the most a territory could. A steady base of tough, skilled wrestlers, the era's top names who would tour for months at a time, and exciting storylines that we believed were crucial to the existence of the National Wrestling Alliance. It also offered wrestling seven nights a week, and three of those (Miami Beach, West Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale) within a 60-mile radius of my home. So I often had the opportunity to view classic action two or three times a week. I miss the days of **Eddie Graham vs. Buddy Colt**, the **Dusty Rhodes-Pak Song** wars, the unexpected title changes at house shows. I miss the NWA world title reign of its wildest champion ever, **Terry Funk**. The emergence of top rookie talent like **Paul Orndorff**, **Buzz Sawyer** and **Dick Slater**, and the accessibility to the workers that offered autographs, photos, handshakes and conversation. I miss **Bob Roop's** shoulder-breaker, **Killer Karl Kox's** brainbuster, **Jack Brisco's** figure-



Johnny Valentine

four... Heck, I even miss Rhodes's bionic elbow.

I started attending live events in July of 1973. My first card at the Miami Beach Convention Center had a double main event. **Johnny Valentine** defended his Southern heavyweight strap against "Mr. Wrestling" **Tim Woods**, and in a Texas Tornado match, **Buddy Colt** and **Gorgeous George Jr.** fought **Tony Charles** and **Paul Jones**. Valentine had a legit tough guy persona and a truly amazing ring presence. I remember the intense, intimidating stare he gave Woods as he stood in his corner. He and Woods had been working a program in the state, and while Mr. Wrestling was a more than capable worker, he was no match for the brutal Valentine. Johnny rapped Woods over the head with a chair, then delivered a series of elbows for the pin. Something else that stands out in my mind from this night, was the **Don Carson vs. Roberto Soto** match, or more precisely, Carson's infamous black glove. I was real angry when Carson loaded the glove to gain a victory, and protested loudly to the referee. My anger cooled an hour later when Carson autographed a program for me. Also on the card in the opener was a young **Steve Keirn**, who would provide me with many memories in the years to come.

CWF went through various changes during the next year, including the emergence of Rhodes as lead babyface, but something happened on the morning of Feb. 20, 1975 that would alter the face of Florida wrestling. A single engine Cessna (en route from Miami), carrying two of the state's top heels, **Bobby Shane** and **Colt**, went down in Tampa's Hillsborough Bay, just 300 feet short of the landing strip. Also on the plane were "Iron" **Mike McCord**, who later gained fame as **Austin Idol**, and manager "Playboy" **Gary Hart**, both of whom suffered serious injuries. Colt sustained severe leg and ankle injuries, and although he did some managing and refereeing, he never returned to active competition. The airplane's pilot, Shane, whom many had predicted to be a major player in the NWA's future, drowned after repeated attempts by McCord to save him.

Warrior Saves Hogan in Return

(Continued from Page 2)

Sam martino, David Shults and Billy Jack Haynes were the opponents? Anyway, this eight-man tag was pretty miserable. The finish does help Virgil regain some of his momentum after getting his nose broken in jobber-like fashion a few weeks ago by Justice. Grade: C-.

5) Savage defeated Flair to begin his second WWF title reign. The match grades an "A" for ringwork and booking, but the finish is questionable and two policies the WWF claims it stands by were violated. The match started hot, with Savage attacking Flair in the aisle. Flair gained control early by back dropping Savage outside the ring, but Savage came back and Flair crisply executed all his predictable selling spots. Flair intentionally cut himself outside the ring (policy violation number one), and took a suplex on the floor. Savage connected with his top-rope elbow, but Curt Hennig pulled Savage off Flair and out of the ring. In the ensuing melee, Hennig tossed Flair brass knuckles, which Flair used to regain the advantage. After Hennig hit Savage in the knee with a chair, The Lovely Elizabeth ran through Dave Hebner and other members of the WWF's goon squad to ringside. The finish came soon after, as Savage blocked a Flair punch, rolled him up from behind using a hand full of trunks and gained the three count. After the bout, Flair confronted Liz in the corner, screaming "What about me?" Liz had a very concerned look on her face, thus leaving the impression there is more to the photograph storyline than has been told. Flair then kissed Liz, who slapped him and pushed him down. Savage and Flair then brawled until the WWF goon squad separated them. The feedback *Three Count* has received to the finish of this match has been exceedingly negative, as most readers feel the Flair-Savage feud has now lost its steam and relegates Flair to a lower status. The poster of Liz that Flair and Hennig promised to reveal on the card was never shown, although teased in the pre-match interview (violation of false advertising policy).

After the five minute intermission came the Justice-Hogan feud recap, which was also shown on the Wrestlemania VIII preview.

6. Tatanka (Chris Chavis) defeated Rick Martel with a cross-body block off the ropes. Ho-hum. Martel appeared smaller than usual, and Chavis has shown a little bit of improvement. Grade: C-.

7) The Natural Disasters defeated Money, Inc., via countout in another disliked finish. After give-and-take by both teams throughout the match, Earthquake prepared to administer his splash onto Irwin R. Shyster when Jimmy Hart pulled Shyster from the ring. Money Inc. then walked off. Since no rematch is scheduled between the two teams (Disasters will feud with Nasty Boys this summer, Money Inc. with Slaughter-Duggan), this finish really diminishes the value of both teams and makes the WWF tag-team titles worth even less. Grade: D.

8) Owen Hart pinned Skinner (Steve Keirn) in 90 seconds with a roll-up. Rushed and, consequently, miserable. Grade: D-.

9) Hogan defeated Justice via disqualification when Harvey Whippleman "interfered" on behalf of Justice. Hogan looked really old in this match. His weight must be down to about 260, his physique was notably smaller and his face appeared worn. This was horrible as far as wrestling goes. The two played give-and-take until Justice gained an advantage and applied a four-minute nerve hold. Hogan kicked out of Justice's power bomb and made his comeback. Hogan delivered a legdrop, but Justice kicked out at the count of two as Whippleman jumped on the ring apron. Whippleman then entered the ring, where Hogan attacked him, signalling the referee to call for the disqualification. During the post-match brawl, Shongo came out and attacked Hogan. The Warrior (appearing much less genetically gifted and anatomically perfect than Luger) appeared and made the save. The show ended with Hogan and Warrior posing as fireworks exploded. Grade: D-, F for the finish. Shongo has had no time to get over, and the run in meant nothing. The finish was stupid.

Post-match notes: Estimated crowd at 62,000, a little more than half of which paid. Early estimated buy rate is a 2.1, which is extremely disappointing for the WWF's biggest show of the year.

WBF Debut Airs

By ALEX MARVEZ

Three Count Editor

Who else could produce a show of an uninteresting subject featuring blatant lies and manipulation of events -- and still make it amusing?

Vince McMahon Jr., of course.

McMahon, the World Wrestling Federation owner, appears to have a hit on his hands with his new show *WBF Body Stars*, the 30-minute television vehicle for McMahon's World Bodybuilding Federation that debuted April 4 on the USA Network (11 a.m. EST).

The show carries a WWF flavor, with constant plugs for Wrestlemania VIII and vignettes of WWF stars at charity events with WBF performers. However, its strength lies in the slickest production of a body-building show to date. WBF stars are shown working out, with charts breaking down each particular exercise presented on the screen. The April 5 show featured work-out tips from WBF stars **Jim Quinn** and **Barry DeMay**, and also eating advice from WBF doctor **Ken Hatfield**.

McMahon and **Cameo Kneur** host the show from the weight room at Titan Tower (the WWF headquarters in Stamford, Ct.) **Lex Luger** also made his WBF debut, arrogantly smirking in the background and occasionally posing in front of the camera as McMahon and Kneur were speaking. Luger, who will be highlighted on the April 12 show, will obviously be pushed as the WBF's star.

Of course, as most McMahon productions are, the show was not without its questionable aspects. The most controversial aspect of this week's show came during an interview with WBF champion **Gary Strydom** conducted by WBF figure-head president **Tom Platz**. Platz said, "The WBF has the most comprehensive drug testing policy in the world. How do you feel about this?" Strydom's response: "I think it's the only way to go. When we step on the stage June 13 (for the WBF's championship), we will be completely drug free. That's even more drug free than the Olympic athletes. We have to start with ourselves before we can become role models."

WWF and WBF stars were also shown at various charity events in a segment narrated by **Shawn Mooney** (not **Murray Hodgson**). The WWF has tried to clean up its image regarding children as allegations of sexual abuse of minors have emerged within the past few months.

McMahon Rape Accused in New Sex Charges

(Continued from Page 1)

show. The report, put together by **Brooke Skolski**, featured an interview with former WWF referee **Rita Marie**, who worked for the group in the mid-1980s. Marie said she was raped by Vince McMahon in the back of his limousine when she refused to consent to performing oral sex.

Marie, who was heavily touted on WWF telecasts as the first female referee, said McMahon told her that she would receive a big push and \$500,000 a year if she would consent to giving him oral sex. Marie said she began to do so, but stopped. McMahon, she said, asked her if performing the act was worth \$500,000. When she refused to begin again, McMahon allegedly raped her.

Marie's attorney told the *Wrestling Observer Newsletter* that the statute of limitations on the case has expired, thus no lawsuit will be filed. However, the attorney is investigating to find if anyone else was sexually harassed by WWF front-office employees to file a class action suit. WWF spokesman **Steve Planamenta** would not return phone calls.

Now It Can Be Told also interviewed **Mike Clark**, a former WWF referee based in Canada. Clark identified former WWF front-office personnel **Pat Patterson**, **Terry Garvin** and **Mel Phillips** as "The Cream Team" because of their fondness for having sexual relations with ring boys. Clark said he was fired as a referee because he refused to consent to letting Garvin have oral sex with him. Clark said Garvin promised him a green card to enter the U.S. and officiate should the sexual favor be granted.

Now It Can Be Told also interviewed **Murray Hodgson**, the former World Bodybuilding Federation announcer who is suing McMahon in Connecticut federal court for breach of contract. The show explained that Hodgson claimed he was fired because he would not have sexual relations with Patterson. Video tape was also shown of *Now It Can Be Told* walking up to the front door of both Patterson and McMahon and getting rebuked for an interview request.

The show ended with an explanation of why an interview with **Tom Cole** would not be aired. Cole, 21, is a former WWF ringboy who claimed to have been sexually harassed by WWF front-office personnel during the ages of 13-16. Cole dropped his plans to file a lawsuit once he was rehired by the WWF in his former position. **Rivera** explained the WWF had successfully obtained a legal order blocking the airing of the interview, but the reason for Cole's lawsuit and eventual dropping of it was explained.

The WWF also came under fire on New York television March 31 at a news conference assembled by *Three Count* reader **Dory DeQuattro**. Two of the people who spoke were Hodgson and **Jim Wilson**, a former National Wrestling Alliance wrestler who claims to have been blackballed from the sport in 1974 after refusing sexual advances from current World Championship Wrestling employee **Jim Barnett**. I hope to have a column from DeQuattro in next week's *Three Count*.

A report on the situation on the *CBS Evening News* April 3 was less critical, and featured a rebuttal from McMahon denying the group's wrongdoing.

Notes from the editor: I'm sorry about this issue being one day late, but it's been an extremely busy week in wrestling and for me personally. We return to our normal Tuesday mail date next week with the post-Wrestlemania WWF television taping news, an interview with Pro Wrestling Spotlight's **John Arezzi** about his recent controversies with the WWF and former business partner **Vince Russo**, the return of **John Muse's** "Musings from Japan," a guest column from **Dore DeQuattro** regarding his March 31 news conference in New York involving the WWF's sexual harassment allegations, and the usual columns from **Paul Hanlin** and **Carlos Rey**.

This week also marked a new *Three Count* feature -- Ring Recall. The column is designed for any reader to recall one of their favorite wrestling angles or matches in detail. Entries should be 250-300 words and sent to the regular *Three Count* address. Each person who has their "Ring Recall" entry printed will receive that week's issue for free. I'm planning on running the feature on a bi-weekly basis on the letter's page, which is also printed every two weeks. And before signing off, a special thanks to Ontario's **George Wilkinson** and New Jersey's **Art Peluso** for sending me various newspaper clippings.

Three Count Professional Wrestling Newsletter©
P.O.Box 12795
Gainesville, FL 32604-0795